
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6780

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education
(originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carrell, McAuliffe,
Weinstein, Esser, Pridemore, Berkey, Delvin, Rasmussen and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to mathematics and science education; amending RCW
2 28A.230.090; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW;
4 and creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** One of the pillars of American economic
7 prosperity--our scientific and technological superiority--is beginning
8 to atrophy even as other nations are developing their own capacity in
9 these areas. Many respected organizations representing business,
10 research, and education, as well as government science and statistics
11 agencies and commissions, have extensively documented the critical
12 situation in the United States regarding science, technology,
13 engineering, and mathematics. The indicators range from measurable
14 declines in United States innovation, such as patents and scientific
15 articles, to soaring numbers of students in Asia majoring in these
16 fields, to United States students' lagging interest and performance in
17 mathematics and science. In Washington state, measures of K-12 student
18 achievement in mathematics and science yield generally disappointing
19 results, despite some small positive signs. America's competitive edge

1 in the global economy, the strength and versatility of its labor force,
2 and its capacity to nourish research and innovation all depend on an
3 education system capable of producing a steady supply of young people
4 well-prepared in mathematics and science. The legislature finds that
5 it is imperative to encourage and inspire our Washington students to
6 pursue higher education in the fields of mathematics, science, and
7 engineering. Our economic viability depends on this, both as a state
8 and as a nation.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
12 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
13 provided in section 3 of this act.

14 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
15 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
16 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
17 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

18 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
19 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
20 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
21 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

22 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
23 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
24 shall remain at the local level.

25 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
26 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
27 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
28 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
29 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

30 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
31 than English established by the state board of education or a local
32 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
33 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
34 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
35 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
36 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

1 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
2 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
3 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
4 high school graduation requirements if:

5 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
6 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
7 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
8 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
9 students enrolled in the class; or

10 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
11 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
12 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
13 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
14 district board of directors.

15 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
16 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
17 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
18 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

19 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
20 semester hours equals one high school credit.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) A mathematics/science scholar designation on the high school
24 diploma is created. This designation shall be awarded to public school
25 students, and approved private school students at the discretion of the
26 approved private school, who complete the following requirements:

27 (a) Successfully earn the following high school credits:

28 (i) Four mathematics credits, including calculus;

29 (ii) At least three science credits, including chemistry and
30 physics; and

31 (iii) At least three credits of world language other than English;

32 (b) Receive advanced placement scores of three or higher on at
33 least two advance placement tests;

34 (c) Earn a high school grade point average of 3.5 or above; and

35 (d) Meet the state standards in all content areas of the high
36 school level Washington assessment of student achievement.

1 (2) As used in this section, "high school credits" means a full
2 school year of study or one hundred fifty hours of planned
3 instructional activities, whichever is greater, or an equivalent as
4 defined by the state board of education.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
6 shall award full tuition scholarships to students graduating from
7 public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW who
8 obtain a mathematics/science scholar designation on their high school
9 diplomas, if the student pursues an undergraduate degree in a
10 mathematics or science-related field and who qualify for a scholarship
11 under the ranking system developed by the board.

12 (2) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework
13 beginning in the student's second year at accredited institutions of
14 higher education in the state of Washington, except that the
15 scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at Oregon
16 institutions of higher education that are located in counties bordering
17 Washington state.

18 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall develop a ranking
19 system to determine priority of the award of the mathematics/science
20 scholarship. The ranking system shall consider the following factors:

21 (a) The first year of course selection at institutions of higher
22 education by the applicant. Applications shall be ranked higher based
23 on the number of mathematics and science classes that the applicant
24 enrolled and completed;

25 (b) The grade point average of the applicant in the first year at
26 an institution of higher education; and

27 (c) Other criteria that the higher education coordinating board
28 deems appropriate.

29 (4) The higher education coordinating board shall award
30 scholarships to as many eligible students as possible using the ranking
31 system.

32 (5) The scholarships may not be awarded to any student who is
33 pursuing a degree in theology.

34 (6) The higher education coordinating board may establish
35 satisfactory progress standards for the continued receipt of the
36 scholarship.

1 (7) The higher education coordinating board shall establish the
2 time frame within which the student must use the scholarship.

3 (8) The higher education coordinating board may adopt rules to
4 implement this section.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The mathematics/science high school
6 scholar scholarship account is created in the custody of the state
7 treasurer. The account shall be a nontreasury account retaining its
8 interest earnings in accordance with RCW 43.79A.040.

9 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall deposit in the
10 account all money received for the program. The account shall be self-
11 sustaining and consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for the
12 mathematics/science high school scholar scholarship program, private
13 contributions to the program, and refunds of scholarships under this
14 chapter.

15 (3) Expenditures from the account shall be used for scholarships to
16 eligible students.

17 (4) With the exception of the operating costs associated with the
18 management of the account by the treasurer's office as authorized in
19 chapter 43.79A RCW, the account shall be credited with all investment
20 income earned by the account.

21 (5) Disbursements from the account are exempt from appropriations
22 and the allotment provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW.

23 (6) Disbursements from the account shall be made only on the
24 authorization of the higher education coordinating board.

25 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2005 c 424 s 18, 2005 c 402 s 8, 2005
26 c 215 s 10, and 2005 c 16 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as
27 follows:

28 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested,
29 and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080
30 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the
31 state treasury.

32 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust
33 fund shall be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be
34 known as the investment income account.

35 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment
36 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds

1 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and
2 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state
3 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to
4 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to
5 financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of
6 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

7 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings
8 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund
9 except under (b) and (c) of this subsection.

10 (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive their
11 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's
12 average daily balance for the period: The Washington promise
13 scholarship account, the college savings program account, the
14 Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the
15 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment
16 fund, the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care
17 endowed scholarship trust fund, the students with dependents grant
18 account, the basic health plan self-insurance reserve account, the
19 contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined
20 fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the Washington
21 international exchange scholarship endowment fund, the developmental
22 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the fair fund,
23 the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the future teachers
24 conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative account, the
25 grain inspection revolving fund, the juvenile accountability incentive
26 account, the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' plan 2
27 expense fund, the local tourism promotion account, the
28 mathematics/science high school scholar scholarship account, the
29 produce railcar pool account, the rural rehabilitation account, the
30 stadium and exhibition center account, the youth athletic facility
31 account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the sulfur dioxide
32 abatement account, the children's trust fund, the Washington horse
33 racing commission Washington bred owners' bonus fund account, the
34 Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, the
35 individual development account program account, the Washington horse
36 racing commission operating account (earnings from the Washington horse
37 racing commission operating account must be credited to the Washington
38 horse racing commission class C purse fund account), and the life

1 sciences discovery fund. However, the earnings to be distributed shall
2 first be reduced by the allocation to the state treasurer's service
3 fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190.

4 (c) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent
5 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or
6 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right of way
7 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving
8 account, the city and county advance right-of-way revolving fund, the
9 federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle
10 account, the local rail service assistance account, and the
11 miscellaneous transportation programs account.

12 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
13 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
14 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 4 and 5 of this act constitute a
16 new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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